



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, Nov. 2010

Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group (DTG)
 November 8, 2010 Minutes
 Approved on December 13, 2010

Present: Clare Gordon, Jane Howard, Mary Harrison, Marian King, Kaitlyn O'Connell (co-chair), Miriam Stein(co-chair), Liz Sura, Samuel Tsoi

The minutes of the October 18 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The following actions will advance the DTG's goal to increase diversity of Town Meeting:

Moderator John Leone will speak about Town Meeting at the League of Women Voters of Arlington's Dec. 3 lunch meeting at the ACMI Cable studio. This is an open meeting. The League will suggest some questions for Mr. Leone to address. The event will be taped and shown on the cable station.

An ad hoc subcommittee will create a flyer encouraging Arlington voters to run for Town Meeting. The flyer will be translated into Spanish by a DTG member. It will be distributed in restaurants and businesses.

DTG will reach out to schools and churches to encourage citizens to run for TM.

DTG will request an information table at Robbins Library; brochures, flyers, and other information about participation in TM and on Town boards and committees will be available there.

YouTube and Facebook will be used for publicity.

A DTG news article that described the survey of new TMMs was published in the Arlington Advocate on November 6, 2010.

It was suggested that DTG approach the high school to encourage Seniors to run for TMM.

It was noted that John Leone will do a presentation around the first of the year for new and potential TM members.

This will orient TMMs to their role in TM.

It was suggested that strategies to find new members for the DTG be combined with outreach to new TMMs.

Outreach strategies might include the following:

Give DTG brochures to Arlington realtors

Distribute brochures at Menotomy Manor. Perhaps hold a meeting there to discuss the DTG and running for TMM.

Link to Thompson School meetings

Four DTG members who had attended the Nov. 4 Retreat on Civil discourse shared their thoughts about the meeting and its portent for DTG: plan now for the future. A follow-up meeting, open to all members, will take place Dec. 9.

These 2011 DTG goals were created for the Town Census Survey:

Encouraging civil discourse on thorny issues

Increasing diversity of TM, boards, and committees

Phone calls or emails to people who indicated they would like to participate on DTG produced no new members of DTG.

Submitted by: Mary Harrison, maharri16@yahoo.com